

Fr. O'Connor's Homily
October 7, 2018

Certainly by now many of you have heard of the “Me too” movement. It’s a movement against sexual harassment and sexual assault. It is amazing what has come to light in recent months. The testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and Judge Brett Kavanaugh has intensified the Me Too Movement as well as our awareness.

An article in yesterday’s Times Union (October 6th), states that one out of 4 girls is sexually abused before her 18th birthday.

Do you remember that a few years ago lapel pins appeared on many people’s coats and shirts made up of four letters, WWJD – What would Jesus do? Today’s Gospel gives us an indication. He states clearly, “What God has joined together, no one must separate” and “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

By now you could be wondering where is he going with all this. Well in Jesus time and place adultery always referred to the sin of a married woman against her husband. A man’s infidelities against his wife were not considered adultery. Women were functional and necessary aspects of their society but not considered to have rights of their own. What would Jesus do? See how Jesus changes all of this, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her.” This is new with Jesus. He recognizes women’s rights.

It’s clear that we all need to wake up. This sexual tangle we are in is horrible. We are not required to be militant but we have to take on the mind of Christ Jesus!

In Jesus time children too were not heard, not considered to have rights. But in today’s Gospel Jesus proclaims, “Let the children come to me... whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” In another place He tells us, “Unless you change and become like little children you cannot enter the Kingdom.”

We are at a crossroads in our country. Please God we will have the courage and love to do God’s will. We must pray and act in the way our prayer shows us.

We can now pray with a woman who was greatly blessed but who suffered deeply especially as she saw her son go down into death. Hail Mary...